

Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development

News Release

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Labor Department Estimates Alaska's 2002 Population

Alaska's statewide population increased by 2.7 percent, or 16,855 persons, for the period April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2002, according to new population estimates released today by the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development (AKDOL). Alaska's growth was slightly greater than the 2.5% growth experienced by the U.S. during the same period. Population climbed from 626,931 at the census in April, 2000 to 643,786, the provisional July 1, 2002 estimate.

Since 2000, the Municipality of Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Borough and Kenai Peninsula Borough have accounted for 96 percent of statewide growth. All three grew due to both natural increase and migration. The Mat-Su Borough continued to be the only area of the state to grow primarily through in-migration, mainly from Anchorage. Since 1990, the Mat-Su Borough has grown the fastest of any area of the state, 4.0 percent annually during the 1990s and 4.2 percent since 2000.

Since the 1990 census, Alaska's population has increased by 17 percent, or 93,743 persons. The average annual rate of growth for the 1990s was 1.3 percent. Alaska's population growth was 0.9 percent for the 2000-2001 period, and 1.6% for 2001-2002, the largest growth since the 1992-93 period (Table 1).

Alaska has been among the slowest growing states since the early 1990s. In the early 1990s, Alaska gained about 9,600 persons each year through natural increase (births minus deaths). As Alaska's baby boomers have aged birth rates have fallen and the death rate has increased, leading to less growth through natural increase. In 2001-2002, natural increase added only 7,100 new residents. 2001-2002 is the first year since the early 1990s with noticeable in-migration. Last year about three quarters of Alaska's population growth was from natural increase and one quarter was from in-migration. In the recent past, 43 percent of in-migration to Alaska has come from the Pacific and Mountain states and another 30 percent from the South Atlantic and West South Central regions. The largest number of in-migrants come to Alaska from Washington, California, Texas, and Oregon.

Natural increase between April 1, 2000 and July 1, 2002 added 15,934 persons to Alaska's population. Net migration (in-migration minus out-migration) accounted for a gain of 921 persons. Cumulatively since 1990, natural increase added 95,273 persons to Alaska's population, while net migration has accounted for an overall loss of 4,658 persons.

Population estimates produced by the AKDOL have also been released for Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas, as well as for 354 places located throughout the state.

Overall, population in most of Alaska's 27 boroughs and census areas has remained flat or declined since 2000. (Table 2.) The largest increases in population occurred in the Municipality of Anchorage, Mat-Su Borough, Fairbanks North Star Borough, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Bethel census area, Juneau Borough, and Valdez-Cordova census area.

Most of the increase was due to natural increase. Almost every borough and census area experienced out-migration or remained level. The only boroughs to have a noticeable net in-migration were Mat-Su Borough, the Municipality of Anchorage, and Kenai Peninsula Borough. The Southeast region continued to have the largest overall decline, with a natural increase of 1,205 persons, and a net migration of -2,315 persons. Only Juneau and Sitka experienced small population growth, primarily through natural increase.

Out-migration and natural increase roughly cancelled each other out in Southwestern Alaska, the Northern Region, and in the Gulf Coast. Kodiak had more out-migration than natural increase, and Valdez-Cordova gained slightly through natural increase relative to out-migration.

In the Interior, Fairbanks North Star Borough grew primarily by natural increase, but Southeast Fairbanks, Denali and Yukon-Koyukuk all experienced more out-migration than natural increase.

In 2002, Alaska has 57 places with population over 1,000 (Table 3); 27 of them are incorporated cities. Thirty-one places in Alaska are considered urban (over 2,500), and 10 have populations over 5,000. The Municipality of Anchorage continues to dominate; its 269,070 people account for 41.7 percent of the state's population. The Anchorage/Mat-Su Region at 334,311 now accounts for 52 percent of the population.

In all, 34 places had above average annual growth since 2000. The places with the highest annual growth rates since the 2000 census were: Homer, Wasilla, Palmer, Knik-Fairview, Tanaina, Farm Loop, Fishhook, Meadow Lakes, Ester, and Fritz Creek. Homer's growth is due to its annexation of a substantial part of Diamond Ridge and Millers Landing.

Population estimates will be available on the Research and Analysis Internet site: <http://www.almis.labor.state.ak.us>.

Table 1 • Annual Components of Population Change for Alaska, 1990-2002

July 1 to June 30	End of Period Population	Population Change	Average Annual Rate of Change	Components of Change			
				Births	Deaths	Natural Increase	Net Migrants
1990	553,171						
1990-91	569,054	15,883	2.83	11,798	2,225	9,573	6,310
1991-92	586,722	17,668	3.06	11,744	2,214	9,530	8,138
1992-93	596,906	10,184	1.72	11,347	2,477	8,870	1,314
1993-94	600,622	3,716	0.62	10,978	2,422	8,556	-4,840
1994-95	601,581	959	0.16	10,439	2,500	7,939	-6,980
1995-96	605,212	3,631	0.60	10,079	2,707	7,372	-3,741
1996-97	609,655	4,443	0.73	10,018	2,574	7,444	-3,001
1997-98	617,082	7,427	1.21	9,924	2,642	7,282	145
1998-99	622,000	4,918	0.79	9,864	2,609	7,255	-2,337
1999-00	627,697	5,697	0.91	10,093	2,827	7,266	-1,569
2000-01*	633,630	5,933	0.94	10,013	2,959	7,054	-1,121
2001-02*	643,786	10,156	1.59	9,891	2,759	7,132	3,024

* Provisional

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section

Table 2 • Population of Alaska by Labor Market Area, Borough and Census Area, 1990-1998

Area by Labor Market Region	July 1	July 1	April 1	April 1	Change		Average Annual		Natural	Net
	2002	2001	2000	1990	2000-	1990-	Rate of Change (%)		Increase	Migration
	Provi-	Provi-	Census /1	Census	2002	2000	2000-	1990-	4/1/00-	4/1/00-
	sional	sional					2002	2000	7/1/02	7/1/02
Alaska	643,786	633,630	626,931	550,043	16,855	76,888	1.2	1.3	15,934	921
Anchorage Mat-Su Region	334,311	325,992	319,605	266,021	14,706	53,584	2.0	1.8	8,062	6,644
Municipality of Anchorage	269,070	263,940	260,283	226,338	8,787	33,945	1.5	1.4	6,817	1,970
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	65,241	62,052	59,322	39,683	5,919	19,639	4.2	4.0	1,245	4,674
Gulf Coast Region	75,339	74,466	73,799	64,063	1,540	9,736	0.9	1.4	1,401	139
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,187	50,185	49,691	40,802	1,496	8,889	1.3	2.0	804	692
Kodiak Island Borough	13,852	14,167	13,913	13,309	-61	604	-0.2	0.4	399	-460
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	10,300	10,114	10,195	9,952	105	243	0.5	0.2	198	-93
Interior Region	99,003	97,900	97,417	92,111	1,586	5,306	0.7	0.6	2,943	-1,357
Fairbanks North Star Borough	84,791	83,530	82,840	77,720	1,951	5,120	1.0	0.6	2,697	-746
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	5,958	5,940	6,174	5,913	-216	261	-1.6	0.4	131	-347
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	8,254	8,430	8,403	8,478	-149	-75	-0.8	-0.1	115	-264
Denali Borough 2/	1,886	1,905	1,893	1,764	-7	129	-0.2	0.7	35	-42
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	6,368	6,525	6,510	6,714	-142	-204	-1.0	-0.3	80	-222
Northern Region	23,851	23,819	23,789	20,380	62	3,409	0.1	1.5	914	-852
Nome Census Area	9,342	9,321	9,196	8,288	146	908	0.7	1.0	349	-203
North Slope Borough	7,243	7,274	7,385	5,979	-142	1,406	-0.9	2.1	288	-430
Northwest Arctic Borough	7,266	7,224	7,208	6,113	58	1,095	0.4	1.6	277	-219
Southeast Region	71,972	72,275	73,082	68,989	-1,110	4,123	-0.7	0.6	1,205	-2,315
Haines Borough	2,360	2,375	2,392	2,117	-32	275	-0.6	1.2	4	-36
Juneau Borough	30,981	30,675	30,711	26,751	270	3,960	0.4	1.4	618	-348
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,670	13,855	14,059	13,828	-389	261	-1.2	0.2	190	-579
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan	5,678	5,838	6,157	6,278	-479	-121	-3.6	-0.2	121	-600
Sitka Borough	8,894	8,836	8,835	8,588	59	247	0.3	0.3	171	-112
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon C.A.	3,945	4,063	4,244	4,385	-299	-141	-3.2	-0.3	25	-324
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon C.A.	3,221	3,359	3,436	3,680	-215	-244	-2.9	-0.7	18	-233
Yakutat Borough 3/	724	704	808	705	-84	103	-4.9	1.4	7	-91
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,444	6,633	6,684	7,042	-240	-358	-1.6	-0.5	76	-316
Southwest Region	39,310	39,178	39,239	38,479	71	760	0.1	0.2	1,409	-1,338
Aleutians East Borough	2,729	2,618	2,697	2,464	32	233	0.5	0.9	21	11
Aleutians West Census Area	5,073	5,269	5,465	9,478	-392	-4,013	-3.3	-5.4	48	-440
Bethel Census Area	16,484	16,211	16,046	13,656	438	2,390	1.2	1.6	785	-347
Bristol Bay Borough	1,159	1,177	1,258	1,410	-99	-152	-3.6	-1.1	26	-125
Dillingham Census Area	4,930	4,921	4,922	4,012	8	910	0.1	2.0	131	-123
Lake & Peninsula Borough	1,641	1,747	1,823	1,668	-182	155	-4.7	0.9	8	-190
Wade Hampton Census Area	7,294	7,235	7,028	5,791	266	1,237	1.7	1.9	390	-124

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis

1/ Census 2000 Populations include census corrections as of 1/15/03.

2/ Denali Borough was Incorporated December 7, 1990.

3/ Yakutat Borough was incorporated September 22, 1992.

C.A. = Census Area.

Table 3 • Places with more than 1,000 Population– 2000 through 2002

Area Name	AKDOL Estimate 2002	AKDOL Estimate 2001	April 1 2000 Census 2000	2000- 2002 Change	Average Annual Rate of Change Percent	Place Rank 2002	Place Rank 2000	City Rank 2002
Places								
Municipality of Anchorage	269,070	263,940	260,283	8,787	1.5	1	1	1
Juneau city and borough	30,981	30,675	30,711	270	0.4	2	2	2
Fairbanks city	29,670	29,558	30,224	-554	-0.8	3	3	3
College CDP	11,828	12,039	11,402	426	1.6	4	4	
Sitka city and borough	8,894	8,836	8,835	59	0.3	5	5	4
Knik-Fairview CDP	8,003	7,679	7,049	954	5.6	6	7	
Ketchikan city /1	7,845	7,565	7,951	-106	-0.6	7	6	5
Kenai city	7,166	6,925	6,942	224	1.4	8	8	6
Lakes CDP	6,987	6,806	6,706	281	1.8	9	9	
Kodiak city	6,544	6,396	6,334	210	1.4	10	10	7
Wasilla city	6,343	5,614	5,469	874	6.6	11	13	8
Kalifornsky CDP	6,243	6,043	5,846	397	2.9	12	11	
Eielson AFB CDP	5,874	5,139	5,400	474	3.7	13	14	
Bethel city *	5,736	5,488	5,471	265	2.1	14	12	9
Tanaina CDP	5,661	5,231	4,993	668	5.6	15	15	
Meadow Lakes CDP	5,316	5,057	4,819	497	4.4	16	16	
Palmer city	5,159	4,624	4,533	626	5.7	17	19	10
Sterling CDP	4,905	4,853	4,705	200	1.8	18	17	
Homer city /2	4,721	3,891	3,946	775	7.9	19	23	11
Barrow city *	4,434	4,471	4,581	-147	-1.4	20	18	12
Nikiski CDP	4,409	4,390	4,327	82	0.8	21	20	
Valdez city	4,171	3,981	4,036	135	1.5	22	22	13
Unalaska city *	4,051	4,261	4,283	-232	-2.5	23	21	14
Soldotna city	3,944	3,818	3,759	185	2.1	24	24	15
Nome city	3,493	3,513	3,505	-12	-0.2	25	25	16
Gateway CDP	3,216	3,074	2,952	264	3.8	26	28	
Petersburg city	3,146	3,234	3,224	-78	-1.1	27	26	17
Kotzebue city *	3,107	3,132	3,082	25	0.4	28	27	18
Big Lake CDP	2,826	2,701	2,635	191	3.1	29	30	
Butte CDP	2,799	2,742	2,561	238	3.9	30	31	
Seward city	2,794	2,768	2,830	-36	-0.6	31	29	19
Dillingham city *	2,475	2,472	2,466	9	0.2	32	32	20
Cordova city (Incl. Eyak*)	2,434	2,445	2,454	-20	-0.4	33	33	21

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, Demographics Unit. 23-Jan-03.

CDP- Census Designated Place, *ANVSA-Alaska Native Village Statistical Area

Note: 2000 Census Populations include census corrections as of 1/15/03.

/1 Ketchikan city had two annexations in 2001.(1/1/01 and 1/29/01)

/2 Homer annexed an estimated 781 persons from Diamond Ridge CDP and Millers Landing CDP 3/20/02.